

## What Does the Lord Require?

Micah 6:1-8 (ESV)

1 Hear what the Lord says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

3 "O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord." **WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE?**

6 "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord **REQUIRE** of you but to **DO JUSTICE**, and to **LOVE KINDNESS**, and to **WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?**

1 Sam. 15:20-23 (ESV)

20 And Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."

22 And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, **TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE**, and to listen than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king."

What does the Lord require of you?

Require = (dah-RAHSH) – seek for, investigate, question about, ask of, care for, demand

## **I. Do justice!**

The Hebrew word for “do justice” is Mishpât - mish pawt - it means literally justice as in a court of law.

Old proverb - “To starve to death is a small thing, but to lose one's integrity is a great one.”

Ex. 23:2 (ESV) - You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice,

Ex. 23:2 (CSB) - “You must not follow a crowd in wrongdoing. Do not testify in a lawsuit and go along with a crowd to pervert justice.

Honesty and truthfulness should permeate every aspect of a Christian's life, including personal relationships, business dealings and community interactions.

Matthew 5:37 (ESV) - Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

You should never HAVE TO say, “I swear” or “I promise” for someone to believe you!

Proverbs 11:3 (ESV) The INTEGRITY of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

Integrity (toom-maw') - Denotes moral wholeness expressed in consistent devotion to God and straightforward dealings with people. It carries the idea of being the same "through and through," free from duplicity or hidden defect. While often rendered "integrity," its nuance includes innocence, completeness, and unwavering loyalty.

And by the way... A REPENTANT person does the right thing because they want to...

It's the result of a real relationship with God!

A REMORSEFUL life does the right thing only because they have to...

It's the result of either trying to get out of consequences...

Or just cold, dead religion!

It's ALWAYS God's will to act with integrity and honor!

Entrepreneur Victor Kiam – "A reputation for INTEGRITY is your most valuable commodity. If you try to put something over on someone, it will come back to haunt you!"

Self-described agnostic, Warren Buffet (CEO, Berkshire Hathaway) - "In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: INTEGRITY, intelligence, and energy. And if they don't have the first, the other two will kill you!"

## **II. Love kindness!**

The Hebrew word is "Chesed" - it's a very difficult word to translate into English.

(CSB) - Faithfulness

(KJV) - Mercy

(Darby Translation) – Goodness

(ISV) - gracious love

Goodness = The best part of anything; The beneficial or nutritious part of something.

Justice without mercy (goodness, steadfast love and faithfulness) is just rigid legalism!

Yet mercy without justice leads to destruction!

God calls on his people to love goodness, steadfast love, faithfulness and mercy...

But REAL mercy, God's mercy doesn't enable!

Jn. 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 Jn. 3:16 - This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

I John 4:19 - We love, because He first loved us.

The heart that has been touched by the love of God exhibits and flows with the goodness, steadfast love, faithfulness, and mercy from God to others.

### **III. Walk humbly with your God!**

We are invited to walk humbly WITH our God!

#### ***1. To walk on the same path...***

To walk with God we have to know what direction He is going and match our course to His.

Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

You cannot go your own way, do your own thing, and be your own person and expect God to bless it!

#### ***2. To walk at His speed...***

We are called to walk with God, not to run ahead or lag behind Him!

#### ***3. To walk out His purpose...***

It's important to understand that we are COHEIRS with Jesus,

But not COEQUALS with Him!

So, what does God consider good; And what does the LORD require of you?

1. That we do justice (live with integrity, true through and through)

2. That we love kindness (goodness, steadfast love, faithfulness and mercy)
3. That we walk humbly with our God (Not my will but yours be done)

We have the Holy Spirit!

We have no excuses!